

Red River Basin
Basinwide Funding Plan – Pilot Project Concept (*Preliminary*)

Summary to Water Topics Overview Committee Members
December 7, 2021

RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT HISTORY:

- Established in 1979.
- Membership at a watershed scale
- Includes 14 individual County Water Resource Districts.
- Purpose:
 - Provide basin-wide watershed planning.
 - Reduce flood damage to rural and urban areas.
 - Provide financial assistance to flood damage reduction retention projects.
- Meet regularly to discuss basin-wide issues and opportunities.
- Since 1979, nearly 116,000 acre-feet of temporary flood storage constructed with RRJWRD participation.
- See <https://www.redriverjointwrd.org/> for more information on the RRJWRD, including the *RRJWRD 2018-2022 Water Management Strategy*.

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BACKGROUND AND ISSUES:

- Water management is critical to our agricultural industry in ND.
- Approximately \$ 85.2 Million funding need for conveyance statewide.
\$ 65.5 Million Upper and Lower Red Basins (77% of total need).
- Most projects are small, with requests generally less than \$1,000,000.
- Time consuming Cost Share application reviews for ND DWR staff on an individual project basis.
- Current application process can slow down project development 4-6 months (or more) for project sponsors.
- State funding commitment unknown until ready to bid. Complicates local landowner assessment considerations because funding isn't known when financing decisions are being made.
- Projects are developed by individual counties without formal Watershed or Basin consideration (currently addressed through ND DWR permitting).



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KEY TAKE-AWAYS:

- Pilot approach is proposed for first biennium. (*“work out the kinks”*)
- Red River Basin already has administrative structure to oversee program.
- Improved efficiency for local sponsors to secure State funds.
- Improved efficiency for ND DWR and SWC reviews.
- Projects are still landowner driven.
(*IE... petition and/or reconstruction requests*)
- Formal communication between Counties on “conveyance”.
- Regulatory role of the ND DWR remains independent.